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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1 SECRET [redacted]

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| COUNTRY | East Germany | REPORT NO. | [redacted] 25X1 |
| SUBJECT | The Situation in East Berlin on 9 July 1953 | DATE DISTR. | 10 July 1953 |
| | | NO. OF PAGES | 1 |
| 25X1 DATE OF INFO. | [redacted] | REQUIREMENT NO. | [redacted] 25X1 |
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BY CARLF

[redacted]

1. The situation in the East German government is static. No new directives, orders, or propaganda have been issued to employees.

2. The Saturday morning party classes have not been resumed. The party members who began wearing emblems on 3 July, the day of the pro-government demonstrations, have removed them.

25X1 3. [redacted] the quiet in government circles is ominous and [redacted] 25X1 increases the tension felt by government employees, though day-to-day work continues as usual. They feel that the outbreak of new trouble is inevitable.

25X1 4. [redacted] on the Stalin Allee project the workers were on a sit-
25X1 down strike [redacted] on 9 July. They are refusing to work until the following demands are met:

a. The release of the strikers arrested for the affair of 17 June

b. Reopening of the Berlin sector borders

c. The resignation of the government, free elections, and the formation of a new government.

25X1 [redacted] the workers have been on strike since 17 June. Last week police were sent to force them to return to work. There ensued a near riot, with the workers chasing the police off the project. It is rumored that there will be further disturbances on 10 or 11 July.

SECRET

| STATE | x | ARMY | x | NAVY | | AIR | x | FBI | | AEC | | | | | |
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5. The white-collar workers, thinking of their own hides, are more careful than the manual laborers. They feel that the government belongs to the workers and that it is therefore up to them to overthrow it. The general opinion is that the situation is serious and that nothing can be done to stop the workers, who have lost all patience, though it is recognized that any outbreak will be immediately crushed by the Soviet military and result in the type of occupation which Berlin experienced in 1945.

6. At present the Soviet military are unobtrusive, and the regualr police (VOPO) are not much in evidence. The latter appear to be concentrated and ready for immediate intervention. The streets are patrolled by the alert police (KVP) in pairs, with stronger units at important points. Popular feeling is strongly against the VOPO, who are afraid and avoid contact with the populace.

7. Discussion is exceedingly free in the S-Bahn and in the streets. The populace is no longer resigned or depressed, but aroused and in an angry mood. While some workers have returned to construction projects in the city in order to be paid, other projects are unattended. Groups form in the streets and the police do not dare to take action against them.

8. The food situation has eased somewhat. Food cards were finally issued 2 days late, on 30 June. Since then the butter ration for July has been increased by one third, and the fish ticket is now valid for meat and sausage.

25X1 9. [redacted] there still is "unrest" in Halle and Madgeburg. Very little work is being performed in these towns. "Unrest" denotes groups of 20 to 30 persons protesting conditions. There is a curfew at Halle from 2300 to 0200; at Bitterfeld from 2100 to 0300.



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